

## Amusements and Meetings to-night.

**ROBERTS OPERA.**—*"Mignon."*  
**ROADWAY THEATRE.**—*"Our Boys."*  
**NIBLO'S GARDENS.**—*"The Heart."*  
**THE THEATRE.**—*"The Heart."*  
**SAN FRANCISCO THEATRE.**—*"The Heart."*  
**STANDARD THEATRE.**—*"The Heart."*  
**WALLACK'S THEATRE.**—*"The Heart."*

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Two new offices are created, those of Attorney and Examiner of Titles, and General Appraiser, and all payments for the examination of titles, appraisements and the like, beyond the salaries of these officers, are prohibited. The law is not designed to take effect until the end of the year. It will be found in full, in its present shape, in our Albany correspondence.

Michael, the creature who was responsible for the rotten meat upon which the Kings County paupers were fed, has been allowed to retire by resignation. It would have been better if the facts had been spread in full upon the record and the statement had been repeated by an ignominious discharge. Two curious facts in this case illustrate the hold which the pettiest sort of local politics has upon matters of this kind. Michael, whose practices cannot be supposed to be new, has been for ten years in the employ of the Kings County authorities; he was formerly the County Storekeeper, and then the paupers had rare food, no doubt. He can only have kept himself so long in this department by political influence. The second curious fact is that a Commissioner who aided in exposing this waste matter, and could only have done so from a desire that the poor dependents of the county should have decent food, actually found it necessary to defend himself, in open board, against a charge that, by so doing, he was "breaking up his party."

Mr. Gumberton has spurned another opportunity, judiciously offered, to "exhibit a little common sense," and has obtained another stay of proceedings. The County Clerk might have followed the example of the Corporation Attorney, who learns that the Board of Aldermen has directed an investigation to be made into his official acts, and promptly informing the Mayor that all the books and accounts of the office are ready to be submitted to inspection, and that he will do everything in his power to make the inquiry "thorough and complete." Whatever may be the facts about Mr. Boyd, the promptness with which he meets the issue raises a presumption in his favor, while the mulish obstinacy with which Mr. Gumberton resists all applications for an inspection of his books and even all judicial orders to show them, raises the strongest possible presumption against him. Indeed, if public officials are public servants, and it is supposed to furnish proper information when it is respectfully requested, the County Clerk's present course would be of itself, in a city having the right of self-government, a civil course towards removal.

We published a letter yesterday from a Florida correspondent, showing how Lieutenant-Governor Hull, of that State, the Democratic candidate for Congress against Mr. Bisbee, set out to buy an election after the votes had been cast. He discovered that, owing to the failure of several counties to give the vote which had been expected, he would need a few over 200 votes from Breckinridge and Dade to give him a majority, and asked a friend, in writing, if "202 could be had." The friend engaged a man to go to Brevard County, and secure the commission of the necessary fraud. This was easily accomplished by the payment of a trifling sum to Lee, Clerk of the County Court, who also adorned a seat in the dignified legislative body over which Mr. Hull presides by virtue of his office. Interesting confirmation of these points is afforded by the announcement in the telegraphic dispatches this morning that Lee was sentenced yesterday in the United States Circuit Court to three years' imprisonment in the Albany Penitentiary. Other parties to the fraud were sentenced with him. All of which goes to prove for the thousandth time that such a thing as cheating in elections is unknown at the South.

## ECONOMY AND LOYALTY DENIED.

It is quite plain that there are two Democrats in the House—Messrs. Potter, of New-York, and Bragg, of Wisconsin—who do not understand the meaning of the word economy as applied to the policy of their party in Congress. They seem to think that it is not a measure of economy to pay the claims which our Southern brethren now completely reconciled to the Government they lately sought to upset—present for damages suffered during the war. Notwithstanding the fact that the Democratic party is in a majority in Congress, and our Southern brethren, now reconciled, are a large majority of the party, these two gentlemen have somewhere imbibed the notion that the Democratic policy of economy was so general in their scope as to apply to Southern claims and Southern subsidies. It is so gross a blunder that it is no wonder that Mr. Chalmers, of Mississippi, and Mr. Ellis, of Louisiana, were surprised into warm, and we had almost said intemperate language, at Mr. Bragg's remarks in the House on Wednesday. Nor is it at all strange that Mr. Ellis, stung by the ingratitude of the two Democrats above named, should remind them that the party owed everything to the South, and that although the Northern Democracy deserted them at the beginning of the war, no Southern Democrat proposed to desert the Democratic party.

Manifestly Mr. Ellis and Mr. Chalmers and the Southern Democrats who struggled for the floor, and were only hindered by Mr. Eden's parliamentary tactics, know more about the mission of the Democratic party, and have a clearer understanding of the policy of economy, than either Mr. Potter or Mr. Bragg. Economy, as they understand it, and as accepted, we believe, by all Democrats in Congress except Messrs. Potter and Bragg, is applicable only to the North, and not at all to the South. The reason is plain. During the war and for some time afterward, the North had enjoyed all the advantages of the Government, and the South none. The North had profited largely by the era of inflation and extravagance, while the South had only suffered by the devastations of war. When, then, the Democratic party, which is the Solid South, came into power, there was but one thing to do, and that was to make things even as soon as possible. To do it they must enforce economy—at the North. This they have been endeavoring to do in a variety of ways, as for instance in cutting down appropriations for the postal service on Northern routes, so that the only sections of the country which pay the cost of transporting their mails and furnish a profit to the Department, are abridged of their facilities, in order that a greater surplus may be had for furnishing postal accommodations to the "star routes" in the Southern States, which are kept up at a loss. The policy of economy in the postal service is only enforced at the North. The Southern statesmen who have become reconciled and have consented to run the Government they could not run, have rigidly retrenched the mail service of those who pay for it, in order to extend the facilities of their Southern constituents, who don't. That is economy—Democratic economy. But it does not apply to Southern claims or Southern subsidy schemes. That is a horse of an altogether different color.

It must be very annoying to Southern statesmen to find Democrats on the floor of Congress who not only fail to comprehend the policy of economy, but actually get up in their places and oppose it. Mr. Bragg had the impudence to say that the Southern claimants who demand the title of \$35,000,000 from the Treasury were disloyal to the Government during the war, and to assign that as a reason for opposing the claims. This kind of talk is very exasperating. It's God's mercy to Mr. Bragg that some of the high-spirited statesmen who are now running Congress did not blow the top of his head off for they are very impulsive creatures and can't bear any allusion to the past, or anything that looks like reviving the animosities of the war. Happily, they restrained themselves; only Mr. Ellis administered a lofty rebuke to Bragg and the other misguided men who served in the Southern Army, by informing him and them that the Southern men could only be loyal by serving in the Confederate Army. "They were loyal," said Mr. Ellis, "to their country, to their God, and to the noblest, highest and manliest emotion ever breathed by the human soul." So that matter settled for the present, and probably until we have some other than a Democratic Congress. We know now precisely what loyalty means. That makes two definitions that we derive from this debate. Democratic economy consists in cutting down appropriations for the North, while voting payment of Southern claims, and for all Southern subsidizing schemes. Democratic loyalty consists in having served in the Confederate Army. That is "the noblest, highest and manliest emotion ever breathed by the human soul."

Really, we are making progress. Let us have a few more such debates, and then revise our dictionaries.

## NORTHERN DEMOCRATS AND SOUTHERN CLAIMS.

It appears to General Bragg, Democratic member of Congress from Wisconsin, that a solid and hungry South will be the death of the Democratic party. His opinion, perhaps, was not altogether novel. In fact, it is safe to say that a great many other Northern Democrats have had the same idea. Mr. Tilden had it when he wrote a memorable letter about Southern war claims, which cost him a great many votes at the South. Other Democrats, in a more or less indirect or private way, have hinted that the South had better be less solid, or less hungry. The fact that every Southern Democrat has his share in the ever-lengthening roll of claims and jobs, and that his constituents, like him, are "solid for Democracy and an appropriation," has made its impression upon the Northern mind. But those who are most disturbed about it have usually thought it desirable to say nothing, and there is a loud chorus of indignation at present, because Mr. Bragg "spoke out in meeting," and uttered thoughts that have been burning in many minds.

It would be a mistake to suppose that the Northern Democrat is governed by patriotism only in his objection to the chronic hunger of Southern Democracy. It was well observed, during the last Presidential campaign, that "those Southern fellows could get all they want if they would only be quiet until after the election" of a Democratic President. But the Northern Democrat is perfectly aware that Southern claims, if granted, would bankrupt the Treasury, and that the average Democratic voter at the South does not care whether the Treasury is bankrupt or not. He is also aware, being in daily intercourse with Northern voters who are not strictly Democratic, but whose votes are absolutely necessary to Democratic success, that there is a very strong impression among such voters that the Solid South wants a very great deal, and means to get it by voting solid for Democracy. Hence the hesitating or independent Northern voter halts. Democracy gets beaten in several Northern States; in Wisconsin, for instance. The Northern Democrat waxes wroth. Like Mr. Bragg, he feels his mind. In effect, he tells Southern Democracy that its hunger for claims, jobs and appropriations is destroying the party again, precisely as irrepressible hunger for more slave territory defeated the party before the war.

It is very true, Southern Democracy is hungry. And it is solid for that reason. But we ask the impatient Bragg to consider one question: What conceivable reason has the South for being Democratic at all, except that it is hungry? "Democratic principles?" They are as stale and empty as a last year's bird's-nest. Slavery is dead. The "great Democratic principle" that man has a right to take his chattels into any territory of the United States sounds as ancient as a passage from the hieroglyphs of Egypt. The war is over; the Union is reconstructed; the South has self-government, by treaty or otherwise, *secundum viam nostram*. As for the tariff, Speaker Randall is at least as good a Protectionist as Representative Garfield, and Mr. Gibson fixes his eye on sugar, and Mr. Beck on hemp, as if they never had heard of any Democratic hostility to protection. Resumption has come, and the time is not far off when any Democrat who cannot swear that he was "always in favor of resumption" will be regarded as not an eligible candidate of the party. But the jobs and claims? What chance has Southern Democracy for these, as long as there is a Republican President or Senate? What more natural than that jobbers at the South and jobbers of Tammany should strike hands?

Mr. Bragg strikes at the sole tie which connects a hungry South with the Democratic party. He threatens, so to speak, to cut the umbilical cord of Democracy at the South. No wonder a chorus of indignation rises. If other Democrats at the North were not more willing, more wise or more reticent than he, the last "great Democratic principle" might completely vanish, and the party itself break up in a grand row. Whenever the Southern Democracy becomes convinced that Democratic victory does not mean payment of war claims, building of levees and railroads, digging of canals, erection of public buildings, improvement of harbors, multiplication of mail routes, and "due consideration" of the cotton tax and the value of enfranchised slaves, then there will suddenly be no Southern Democracy.

## NEW EXPLOSIONS.

It will be remembered that a little before Christmas, in 1877, a confectionery establishment in Barclay-st. suddenly exploded in a mysterious manner. The roof flew up and the front wall flew out, the bookkeepers were blown through one window and the salesmen another, and the air was transiently clouded with gum-drops and packing girls, all of whom luckily got off without injury. In the absence of any apparent cause for such an occurrence it was, of course, laid to the engineer, who was dead and could not answer for himself, but his boiler answered for him, as it remained quiet intact after the explosion. It was then surmised by an anxious public that some inventive guy had blown up the premises in the building, and that his explosives had gone off prematurely, blowing him with his own petard, and distributing him through space as cat's meat.

None of these conjectures turned out to be correct. It is now known that at a certain degree of attenuation, and under certain conditions, the dust of flour, starch or sugar is as explosive as gunpowder, and that it was to the sudden ignition of this inflammable substance that Messrs. Greenleaf owed the destruction of their Manassas. On the second of May, 1878, the Washburn Mill, at Minneapolis, with a single exception the largest in the world, incurred a similar visitation, and one of the most extensive and solidest structures in the country, built throughout of stone, with walls two yards in thickness at their base, were in a few seconds reduced to a shapeless mass of ruin. In December of the same year the Anchor Mill, of the same place, was partially destroyed by a like catastrophe.

So many destructive accidents, originating in a similar cause, have drawn scientific attention to the subject, and various remedies have been proposed. Mr. E. W. Spaulding, of Philadelphia, concerns the location of the wheat and flour dusts in the basement of the mill, and thinks they should be in a separate building. He shows that in the flour dust-room of the Washburn Mill there accumulated in a single day sixty sacks of dust of 12